

Annual Report

OF THE

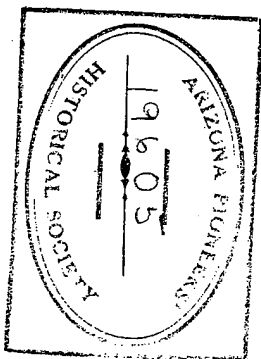
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1874.



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these Indians are susceptible of improvement, by what they have shown. First, they are the most temperate people of the Territory as a community; not from lack of opportunities to procure liquor, but the knowledge of its injurious effects. Again, they have shown a desire for knowledge, by sending their children to school without any compulsion, and by frequent visits to the school evincing a personal interest. The improvement is slow, but more rapid than in any previous year.

With liberal, judicious aid, wisely administered, these Indians can be entirely self-sustaining in two years.

Yours, respectfully,

J. A. TONNER,
United States Indian Agent.
Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

MOQUIT PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY,
Arizona Territory, September 12, 1874.

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my annual report on the condition of affairs at this agency.

These Indians, you are aware, are Pueblo-Village Indians, peaceably disposed apparently, and have been so within the memory of the inhabitants of this country. There are seven villages in all, with a population amounting in the aggregate to fourteen hundred and seven persons at last count, now nearly one year ago. They are increasing in population; very few deaths occurring among them. Their condition as to houses might be improved, it would seem to us, but they are satisfied and happy, and will not hear of a change. They are vacillating in mind; there is not much dependence to be put in them; they will promise one thing, and in ten hours a complete change will have come over them, and their mind is in direct opposition to what it was.

Notwithstanding this discouraging state of affairs, I have noticed some improvement within the past year. They manifest more of an interest in schools, and seem anxious to learn—I refer now to the older ones; they promise, if an industrial school is started here at the agency, that it shall be well attended; but they have deceived me so often, I am not disposed to put any dependence in what they now say. It is my intention, with the consent of the Department, to try a school of this kind on a small scale at the agency, and, if successful, it will be an encouragement for an attempt at something more extensive. The school, always with a good arrangement, has not given me satisfaction; they do not seem to progress as they should, owing, I believe, to their association while out of school, and the only remedy for that is to move them from their homes.

The Moquits are an agricultural people, and all of them plant a little farm; this year they planted much more than they have ever before, and their crops look fine; there will be an abundance. It is impossible for me to arrive at the amount in acres, even approximately. They have planted in patches, and for miles in every direction; hence I am unable to estimate the amount of their products, for they are not yet gathered. Their peach-crop will be large, and, as they dry them, the whole crop will be gathered and cared for.

Heretofore the agent for these Indians has lived in Fort Defiance, Wingate, or Santa Fé, making visits about every three months. Within the past year I have erected a good agency-house, with funds provided by the Department, near the Indians, and have been living among them with my family for more than two months. This residence of the agent among them will tend to good results. I inclose with this the blank filled out; many of the questions I am unable to answer approximately even.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. DEERES,
United States Indian Agent for Moqui-Pueblo Indians.
Hon. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

AGENCY PAPAGO INDIANS,
Tucson, Arizona, September 15, 1874.

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my fourth annual report, showing the condition of the agency under my charge.

It is particularly pleasant to be able to speak of the very marked change which has taken place in the character and condition of these Indians during the past few years. At the time I assumed the duties of this office, I found them in a condition which, if left to themselves, would hardly have admitted of improvement for years to come. They were alone, as it were, for no agent had ever been sent them by Government, and the only knowledge they had that our Government knew of their existence was through the different agents sent

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out to the Pima and Maricopa Indians, two of whom, when distributing annuities, gave them a small number of implements, most of which are in use to-day. The extremely impoverished condition of these Indians was doubtless owing in part to continuous depredations upon them by the Apaches, as well as to the want of the supervision of one who would protect them and their interests when necessity demanded. Through the fostering care of Government many of their wants have been supplied, thereby impressing them with the belief that, notwithstanding they were neglected for a long time, their necessities and wants have at last been made known to Government, and little by little are being supplied.

Since they became convinced that Government was looking to their interests, with a view of rendering them assistance, they have become very submissive, and anxious to conform to any law which might be interpreted to them as necessary to their well-being. Heretofore intemperance was fast making advancement among them; but good and repeated advice, given in proper time, as well as making a few examples of those addicted to drunkenness, has had its effect, so that now a drunken Indian in this tribe is the exception, and not the rule as heretofore. The dislike to this evil and its accompanying results has been so well canvassed among them, and is now so well appreciated, that when one does get under the influence of drink, he immediately requests all his friends not to inform the agent of it lest he should be offended with him. Neighboring settlers, who used to make their whole livelihood out of the Indians by selling them liquors, find it a very difficult matter to make so much of a success of this traffic as heretofore. The other day a party of traders visited one of the Papago towns, having for sale whisky, calico, and sugar; but when the captain of the village learned of it, he immediately requested them to leave, and would not let them expose for sale even the calico and sugar. While an improvement has been going on in regard to this the worst of all evils, they have also become very diligent and careful in hunting and bringing in loose or stray stock. This is a great accommodation and saving to the adjoining ranchmen, as when one of their animals strays into the Papago country there need be no anxiety or pursuit; they need only wait patiently a few days for the Indians to find and bring the stock into the agency, to be claimed and taken away by the owners. In this way during the past year more than one hundred animals, lost to their owners to all intents and purposes, have been restored.

The improvement in farming this season is notable, as nearly all of the arable land at their disposal has been planted. New fields have been inclosed and tilled, and houses built, and they have a full harvest for the reward of all their labor. As soon as the reservation shall have been established, a new impetus will be given to agriculture and stock-raising, for the arable and grazing portions of the granted reservation were formerly theirs, and it has long been their desire to re-occupy them. A large building for educational purposes has been erected during the past year, and a school opened which lasted nearly nine months. At the commencement but few children attended, but as time advanced the number increased until, at vacation, we had eighty-nine. The progress made by the children has been all that could have been expected. A new prospect has been opened to them, which, if rightly taken advantage of, will make of these children useful and intelligent men and women. The girls are instructed in sewing during two days of each week, and a few are being instructed in cooking.

And now permit me to refer to a new and dangerous difficulty that has arisen in the path of my official duty to the Papago Indians. Since this agency has been given to the Catholic Church I have done everything in my power to aid the Church in its religious teachings and influence among the Indians, believing that I was carrying out the policy of the Government by so doing. But some time ago, the fact was forcibly impressed upon me that the bishop and priests had a larger interest in securing the fruits of the labor of the Indians than in any spiritual good they might be able to confer upon them. As an example, these Indians complain that the bishop holds a valuable piece of agricultural land and obtained from them through promises he has never fulfilled; that frequent attempts have been made to compel them, (the Indians,) to give the bishop one-tenth of all their earnings, as a title for the benefit of the church, and they complain that, generally, the designs and actions of these priests, if not kept under strict control, or entirely removed, will lead directly to placing them, (the Indians,) as in olden times, in a condition of vassalage and servile bondage. My own views, from practical experience, correspond with those of the Indians, and, in proportion as I have not acceded to unjust demands, I have become obnoxious to these priests, and constant and frequent misrepresentations have been made to these Indians and to citizens, in order to weaken my influence over my charges; as, for instance, the Indians have been told by the bishop that the captains were entitled to pay, and to told to make demands on me for the same, when, according to your instructions, there is no law by which I am authorized to make any such payments. Constant misrepresentations of this character are being made; but, ignorant as the Indians are, they, with great unanimity, seem to understand the motive of the falsehoods, and exhibit a confidence in my fidelity to their interests that is truly remarkable, and certainly very gratifying to myself. There are localities in the United States where the representatives of the Catholic Church seem actuated by motives becoming American citizens, but, as represented in this Territory and the neighboring States of Mexico, the clergy of the Catholic denomination have announced themselves as opposed to every institution and object most cherished by the American people. Right here in the capital of Arizona, this bishop and the priests, who have for some time past been doing their utmost to